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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Shrinivasan et al.

Attorney Docket No.: NOVLP029/NVLS-000495

Application No.: 10/067,520

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: February 5, 2002

Group: 2811

Title: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR
PROCESSING SEMICONDUCTOR
SUBSTRATES USING
SUPERCRITICAL FLUIDS

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail on December 24, 2003 in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Signed: _____

Leslie Russell

TRANSMITTAL

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Response to Restriction Requirement in the above-identified application.




Applicant(s) believe that no (additional) Extension of Time is required; however, if it is determined that such an extension is required, Applicant(s) hereby petition that such an extension be granted and authorize the Commissioner to charge the required fees for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136 to Deposit Account No. 500388.



Please charge the required fees, or any additional fees required to facilitate filing the enclosed response, to Deposit Account No. 500388 (Order No. NOVLP029).

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP


Jeffrey K. Weaver
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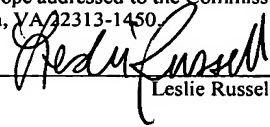
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated December 16, 2003, Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, Group 1, claims 1-59 to prosecute in the above-identified patent application.

The Examiner has indicated that this application contains claims directed to various patentably distinct species. Applicants will now attempt to select species from within the various genres identified by the examiner in sub-paragraphs a through l of paragraph 8.

With respect to genus (a), Applicants elect a "supercritical cleaning solution." Applicants note that generic claim 1 requires a supercritical cleaning solution. All elected claims therefore read on the chosen species. While a supercritical cleaning solution can be generated from a subcritical cleaning solution or a subcritical cleaning solvent, claim 1 requires a "supercritical cleaning solution."

For the genus identified in sub-paragraph (b), Applicants elect “stainless steel” as the specie of corrosion resistant material, as per claim 24. All elected claims read thereon.

For the genus identified in sub-paragraph (c), Applicants elect a “spring-energized U-cup seal” of a primary seal generically disclosed in claim 28 and exemplified in claim 30. Applicants believe that all claims read on this elected specie. Note that the U-cup seal is not incompatible with a self-energizing bore seal. See the bottom of page 28 through page 29.

With respect to the genus defined in sub-paragraph (d), Applicants elect an elastomeric O-ring comprising silicone. All elected claims read on this specie except claim 34.

With respect to the genus of sub-paragraph (e), Applicants elect a species of flow distribution manifold that comprise a plurality of holes in each flow distribution manifold. Applicants also elect a stainless steel distribution manifold as recited in claim 41. All claims except possibly claims 37-40 read on this elected species. Note that claims 37-40 require flow-directing grooves in the plurality of flow distribution manifolds. As grooves are a species of holes (which were elected by Applicants), it is believed that claims 37-40 read on the elected species as well.

For genus (f), Applicants elect a quartz species of point contacts and wafer guides as recited in claim 43. All elected claims read on this species.

For the genus of sub-paragraph (g), Applicants elect the additive delivery mechanism species recited in claim 51. All elected claims except claims 49 and 50 read on this species.

Regarding the genus recited in sub-paragraph (h), Applicants elect concavities as the species of contoured surface. All elected claims read in this species.

With respect to the genus recited in sub-paragraph (i), Applicants elect photoresist as the species of material to be removed from the wafer. All elected claims read on this species.

For the genus recited in sub-paragraph (j), Applicants elect a co-solvent as the species of additive. All elected claims read on this species.

With respect to the genus defined in sub-paragraph (k), Applicants elect the species of adding an additive recited in pending claim 97. All elected claims read on this species.

Finally, with respect to the genus defined in sub-paragraph (I), Applicants elect filtration as the specie of purification of the solvent recited in claim 109. All elected claim read on this species.

In summary, it is believed that all elected claims except claims 34, 49, and 50 read on the elected specie.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing this Response to Restriction Requirement, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 500388 (Order No. NOVLP029).

Respectfully submitted,

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



Jeffrey K. Weaver
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